United Nations S/2011/218

Security Council

Distr.: General
1 April 2011

Original: English

# Letter dated 31 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that, under the presidency of Colombia, the Security Council is scheduled to hold an open debate on the subject of "The question concerning Haiti" on Wednesday, 6 April 2011. In order to help steer the discussions on the subject, Colombia has prepared the attached concept paper (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council in connection with the item entitled "The question concerning Haiti".

(*Signed*) Nestor **Osorio**
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

11-28708 (E) 040411

Please recycle

## Annex to the letter dated 31 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

## Concept paper on Haiti: a renewed commitment by the international community

### Background

1. The international community has shown determination in assisting Haiti to meet the challenges that it has faced even prior to the devastating effects of the earthquake of 12 January 2010. The assistance and support of Member States have been reflected in actions taken by donors, financial institutions and regional and subregional organizations that were active in this matter even before the disaster. There has been significant advancement in some fields, for example, in macroeconomic management in partnership with the International Monetary Fund and in security thanks to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

2. The engagement of multilateral financial institutions can be seen in initiatives like the pardoning of a debt ratio of $1.2 billion by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, the approval of a new programme to support reconstruction and economic growth, and the development of strategies to strengthen the process of economic and social recovery of that nation by the Inter-American Development Bank. On the other hand, regional bodies have accompanied the efforts to support and promote democratic principles, as seen in the context of the recent elections.

3. In addition, since its establishment through Security Council resolution 1542 (2004), MINUSTAH has had an active role in supporting security as well as recovery and reconstruction efforts.

4. The mandate given to MINUSTAH by the Security Council contains the legal framework that, in the specific context of the situation in Haiti, underlines the main requirements needed to overcome the complexity of the tasks. Through numerous resolutions and presidential statements adopted between 2004 and 2010, the Council has affirmed a strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of Haiti; recognized the critical role of MINUSTAH in ensuring stability and security; supported the engagement of regional and subregional organizations, international financial institutions and other major stakeholders that interact with Haitian authorities; supported the maintenance of the rule of law, public safety and public order; and encouraged the constitutional and political process.

5. The work of MINUSTAH has produced tangible results related to the security situation. Just a few months before the earthquake, MINUSTAH reported progress in those areas. However, the interconnected nature of the post-earthquake challenges in Haiti stresses the need to strengthen the rule of law at every level and increase coordination between the various development actors, in order to ensure greater efficiency in national reconciliation, institutional reform and development efforts.[1]

[1] See Security Council resolution 1892 (2009).

6. It is also necessary to give Haitian authorities proper recognition for the successful completion of the electoral process and for the importance they have given to a peaceful and constitutional political process. This is a key element in maintaining a secure and stable environment in the quest to achieve an economically and socially sustainable Haiti, all within a development framework in which the promotion and observance of the rule of law, public safety and the protection of human rights are seen as a direct result of our collective efforts.

**The next steps**

7. There is still a need for the international community to maintain its commitment to strengthening reconstruction and humanitarian programmes in Haiti. Such international commitment should aim at the total fulfilment of the objectives of peace and security, on one hand, and social and economic development, on the other, allowing all stakeholders to join Haitians in the formulation and implementation of long-term strategies for reconstruction and recovery.

8. The international community understands the challenges of contributing to the development and well-being of the Haitian people. Moreover, it is clear that the consensual work of national authorities with all stakeholders involved: Member States, United Nations organs, development bodies and agencies, the donor community and regional, subregional and international organizations, is needed.

9. Haitian institutions, despite their weaknesses, are essential for any long-term strategy supported by the international community. Therefore, in their contributions, United Nations Member States and all stakeholders need to encourage consultation and coordination with the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission and the Haiti Reconstruction Fund to fulfil the Action Plan for National Recovery and Development on Haiti.

10. In that context, the Security Council open debate proposed by Colombia intends to discuss how the international community can better contribute to peace, security and development in Haiti. While proper consideration should be given to the mandate and role of MINUSTAH, these initiatives would allow Haiti to move towards sustainable peace and the creation of an environment in which security and development become long-term realities under the rule of law.[2]

**Action by the Security Council**

11. While it is true that the main focus of the Security Council's action is related to the maintenance of international peace and security, on several occasions the Council has underlined the interdependence between security and development in the need to implement measures to address conflicts.[3] The Council recently underlined that security and development were closely interlinked and mutually reinforcing, and recognized that their relationship was complex, multifaceted and, above all, case-specific.[4]

12. This last consideration is particularly relevant for present purposes, since among the situations in the programme of work of the Security Council, the situation in Haiti is in many ways a unique case. In a recent statement, the Head of

[2] See Security Council resolution 1608 (2005).

[3] See S/PRST/2010/18; S/PRST/2010/14.

[4] See S/PRST/2011/4.

MINUSTAH and Special Representative of the Secretary-General recalled that in 2004, there was no war in Haiti but rather a situation of chronic political, social and economic instability to which the Council chose to respond with the deployment of MINUSTAH, which from the outset was aimed not only at preventing a potential civil war and breaking the cycle of chronic instability of the past decades but also at supporting the State in its most fundamental functions. As he put it, a peacekeeping operation was deployed in Haiti because to some extent, the international community had no better tool at its disposal to prevent the country from failing.

13. The situation remains essentially the same at present and it has even been aggravated on account of the effects of the previous year's earthquake, which is why Colombia considers that the special character that the Council has given to the mandate of MINUSTAH must be maintained and reinforced, in the understanding that it will not constitute a precedent or affect the construction or the handling of other mandates.

14. It is clear that the international community, through many of its representatives, and the Security Council itself, recognize the uniqueness of the difficulties that Haiti is facing and the urgency to implement, with the democratic Government, a long-term strategy in order to achieve and sustain stability and combat poverty.[5]

15. The mandate given by the Security Council to MINUSTAH in 2004 already emphasized the scope of coordination and cooperation that the Mission should pursue in its activities related to the establishment of a secure and stable environment, the support to the constitutional and political process and the promotion of human rights.[6] We must act in support of Haiti to make a qualitative leap into the future.

16. Underlining this goal, Security Council resolution 1944 (2010) reiterated that security must be accompanied by social and economic development and that sustainable progress on security, the rule of law and institutional reform, national reconciliation and development are mutually reinforcing.

17. We need to consider, within the broad existing mandate of MINUSTAH and the responsibilities of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, fresh options for Member States, United Nations organs, bodies and agencies, the donor community and other subregional, regional and international organizations, international financial institutions and non-governmental organizations, to support Haiti more efficiently during the formulation and implementation of all programmes and projects aimed at consolidating a democratic, prosperous and secure country where social and economic development for all Haitians is the result of coherent and sustainable development strategies.

**Questions**

18. It is important to reflect upon what we have done so far in Haiti and to ask ourselves key questions: Where have we succeeded? What are the lessons learned? Is our cooperation working for the benefit of all Haitians or is it perpetuating dependence on foreign capacities and resources? Are we building structures and

[5] See Security Council resolution 1542 (2004), paras. 13 and 14.

[6] See Security Council resolution 1542 (2004).

capacities for the long-term or are we simply working with a short-term vision leaving Haiti without the possibility of prospering without the international community?

19. How can Member States contribute to a long-lasting solution for Haiti that will support all Haitians in efficiently setting the ground for a sustainable and peaceful future?

20. In extreme cases, as in the situation in Haiti, reconstruction involves a large initial effort to build upon a new institutional framework. How can Member States coordinate their efforts in order to achieve better results?

21. How can Member States implement initiatives along with the Haitian people and authorities during the formulation and implementation of long-term strategies for the reconstruction and recovery of the country?